



USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2011

A. INTRODUCTION

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the month of April 2011 covering the achievements under USAID-COMPETE funding support to EAGC. The Grant is aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and regional structured grain trading system through integrated regional market information systems, policy and reduced barriers to trade. The objectives of the entire Grant are as follows:

1. To facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region with a particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of satellite offices in Uganda and Tanzania.
2. To formalize regional agricultural markets and structured trade systems in the Eastern and Southern Africa region through training of trainers in harmonized grains standards, rules of trade (tariffs, simplified certificate of origin (SCO), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS), WRS/Commodities Exchanges and dispute resolution.
3. To expand RATIN into a truly regional market information platform that integrates national MIS providers and provides timely and accurate data and analysis to all value chain participants and is the region's preferred source of market information.
4. To hold a successful Grain Trade Summit in Uganda in October 2011 to discuss the systems required to formalize, strengthen and integrate the regional staple foods value chain, increase stakeholder participation in structured trading systems and promote regional trade and food security.
5. To organize Agribusiness Fairs in Kenya and Tanzania to bring small-scale farmers and FBOs together with leading regional traders and processors to build linkages across the value chain.
6. To engage directly with national governments in the EAC to ensure full adoption and institutionalization of the EAC's harmonized grains standards.

B. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

a) Regional and Country Operations

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, the EAGC offices in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were operational. Through the support, EAGC intensified its membership recruitment drive. EAGC recruited 5 new members in Uganda namely:

- (i) aBi Trust
- (ii) Smith & Bolton

- (iii) Victoria Seed Ltd
- (iv) Kapchorwa Commercial Farmers
- (v) Nile Breweries

The total EAGC membership now stands at ninety two (93).

b) Market Information System

RATIN overhaul and upgrade meeting

EAGC held a RATIN Review and Upgrade process on 24th and 25th October 2011, in Naivasha. The participants included the EAGC technical team, USAID COMPETE Staples Food Technical Team, MIS experts from the University of Nairobi, the IT Consultants who will support the process, EAGC Board Members, and an MIS expert from FAO.

The discussions were guided to agreed on the design and structure of the NEW RATIN Process, What the new RATIN will do, What it will address, and how we can achieve the process. The team also critically addressed the sustainability of the new RATIN. At the end of the two day workshop, the team agreed on a clear roadmap of the NEW RATIN process, and timelines on how the process will be achieved.



A section of participants who attended the RATIN workshop

C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

a) Structured Trading Systems (STS)

After EAGC conducted the national-level Training of Trainers (ToT) program on STS in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, the need to review the courses offered arose. A meeting was held on 24th October 2011 to review the STS ToT Programs. It was recommended that modules for Intermediate and Advanced courses be introduced. The concluded trainings were considered as Preliminary Training Courses. Those who undertook Preliminary Courses will choose the specific areas of their interest to be trained at the Intermediate level then seat for an examination. Those who will pass will undertake further training at advanced level.

The next preliminary training course will be conducted in Arusha, Tanzania on 24th-25th Nov.2011. The training workshop has been spread to cover two days as suggested by the trainees in previous workshops.

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c) Grain Value Chain Stakeholder Capacity Built

• Annual Agribusiness Fairs

Tanzania

The preparations for the EAGC Annual Agribusiness Fair 2012 in Tanzania have started. The Fair will be organized jointly by EAGC and Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) on 7th and 8th June 2012 in Arusha. EAGC recruited a Project Assistant and the Event Organizer to support in organizing the Fair. A memorandum of understanding between EAGC and SARI was signed on 21st October 2011.



EAGC-SARI MOU signing ceremony

Uganda

In Uganda, EAGC is seeking partnership with Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research & Development Institute (NGEZARDI). A memorandum of understanding has been drafted and a meeting scheduled for 7th November 2011, to discuss the collaboration. The Fair is scheduled for last week of June 2012 in Lira.

- **Biannual African Grain Trade Summit**

The 4th AGTS was held on 13th and 14th October at the Speke Resort in Munyonyo. It was opened by H.E The President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with the Minister of Agriculture, Animal industry and Fisheries, Hon Tess Bucyanayandi in attendance. In his address the President commended the EAGC for having taken the initiative to hold such a summit and called upon delegates to find ways that small holder farmers can practice profitable farming on their small pieces of land. He also urged delegates to embrace the idea of value addition and stop exporting grains as raw material for others.

The 2-day high profile Summit, whose theme was *"Accelerating Growth in Grain Trade; Opportunities for strategic partnerships and investments"* was attended by 130 delegates from all over the world. Farmers, traders, processors, bankers, collateral managers, development partners and all other stakeholders in the grain value chain attended.

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; Hon Amelia Kyambadde with the minister of State for Agriculture in attendance, closed the summit. In her remarks, she too commended EAGC on the successful summit and reiterated the Ministry and the government of Uganda's commitment to agriculture. She made a presentation which she pointed out, among others, her ministry's plan to construct silos as one of the measures to improve on grain storage and therefore grain trade in the country.

During the summit too, EAGC and UCE signed MOU on WRS in which EAGC would play a major role in promoting the system in Uganda.



Some scenes of the 4th AGTS

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